

Virginia Emergency Operations Center
Hurricane Katrina Impacts
Situation Report #10

Operational Period 0700 Hours September 9, 2005 to 0700 Hours September 10, 2005

SITUATION:

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a limited state of emergency within the Commonwealth on August 31, 2005, directing the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to coordinate state relief efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina. Following an evacuee care meeting with key state agencies and volunteer organizations, Governor Warner announced Virginia is offering to shelter a minimum of 4,000 evacuees. The Governor has requested a Presidential disaster declaration to assist with Virginia's relief effort.

Localities across the Commonwealth are receiving evacuees from Louisiana. The American Red Cross is providing assistance, such as food, clothing, and shelter, to the evacuees.

An evacuee Reception and Disaster Recovery Center is set up at Fort Pickett and ready to receive evacuees. Efforts are focused on providing one-stop shopping for sheltering, health and various government services at Fort Pickett.

Virginia continues to monitor fuel supply around the Commonwealth.

VEOC STATUS:

- The VEOC is currently in Response Operations

ONGOING STATE ACTIVITIES:

- **VDEM/VEOC**
 - Augmented with additional staffing from DFP, VSP, DHRM, Red Cross and DHS/FEMA.
 - Coordinating 60 open requests through Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Disseminating EMAC requests to the appropriate State and/or local agencies.
 - Currently supporting 3 EMAC missions in Louisiana and 2 in Mississippi:
 - Six Community Relations Reservists personnel arrived in Jackson, Mississippi.
 - Awaiting responses from requesting states to 29 proposals to respond on EMAC missions.
 - Established an Evacuee Reception Center/Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at Fort Pickett.
 - Monitoring Tropical Storm Nate, Tropical Storm Maria, and Tropical Storm Ophelia.
- **DMME**
 - EPA extended the Richmond RFG waiver effective through midnight of September 23.
 - No widespread fuel shortage in the state. Continues to be spot shortages reported in Richmond, Tidewater, and Northern Virginia areas.
- **DOF**
 - Two personnel are staffing the agency's Command Center in Charlottesville and at least 1 person is assisting in each of the agencies 6 Regional offices as necessary to assist with crew deployments and support.

- One person is assisting the state of Mississippi to prepare a pre-suppression wildfire plan to address the added wildfire danger posed by the hurricane debris.
 - Total of 64 personnel are deployed to assist with Katrina relief.
 - A 20 person crew is coordinating food and water distribution near Hammond, LA.
 - A 20 person crew is providing emergency related community assistance in the Town of Ocean Springs, MS.
 - Six 3 person chainsaw crews (18 people total) are clearing roads near Laurel, MS.
 - 5 personnel have been deployed in single resource positions on Type 1 IMT's in Meridian, MS and Baton Rouge, LA.
 - 1 person is serving as an Equipment Manager over rental/leased recovery equipment out of Houston, TX.
- **VDH**
 - Two Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) personnel deployed on September 9 in support of DMORT operations.
 - Local Health Districts coordinating with partner agencies in support of self-deployed and private source assisted evacuees.
 - One planner from the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) on standby to deploy in support of DMORT operations as early as today.
 - VDH Public Information Officer deployed to Texas on September 8 in support of FEMA.
 - Va. Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)-1, 12 personnel deployed on 5 missions and 32 standing by for immediate deployment.
 - MCV Housing advises 280 single beds available.
 - Preparing VDH plans for support of evacuee sheltering at Ft. Pickett.
 - Established VDH Towne Pickett Response Team. Dr. Mark Levine, Henrico Health District Director and Piedmont Health Districts, is coordinating health response at Ft. Pickett to include personnel, equipment and logistics. Shelter health and medical support operations prepared to commence at 0800 September 9.
 - Self-deploying Medical Response Team from Sentara Systems has been put on hold. Sentara Systems, HCA and UVA Hospital team coordinating with VDH to provide medical assistance for evacuees at Ft. Pickett.
 - Virginia Office of EMS in cooperation with Old Dominion Emergency Medical Services Alliance (ODEMSA) and the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads is coordinating additional ambulances and crews in response to evacuees arriving at Ft. Pickett.
 - **VNG**
 - 151 of 225 National Guard personnel arrived in Jackson, Mississippi by plane September 6. The remaining 74 guardsmen arrived by convoy September 8 (EMAC).
 - Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) -VA plans for deployment of Joint Taskforce (JTF) Cardinal and 2 BN 116th INF.
 - JFHQ-VA develops future capabilities support packages and continue planning for potential future security operations.
 - JTF Cardinal 1 conducts security and relief operations in support of 35th ID.
 - 2 BN 116th INF conducts security operations in support of 38th Infantry Division (ID).

- 152 guardsmen and 29 airmen, mainly military police, arrived on September 5 in Alexandria, Louisiana. The guardsmen have been attached to the 35th Infantry Division and are now station at the Belle Chase Naval Air Station in Louisiana (EMAC).
- Deployed 6 guardsmen with the 203rd Red Horse unit to the Belle Chase Naval Air Station in Louisiana (EMAC).
- National Guard Fire Truck deployment cancelled.

- **VSP**
 - VSP helicopter equipped with a hoist, staffed by two pilots has returned at 1800hrs. 9/9/05.
 - 120 Trooper Law Enforcement Task Force with a communication vehicle headed for Mississippi is on unrestricted standby basis.
 - Supporting parameter security at Fort Pickett.

- **VITA**
 - VITA shipped telephones, laptops, fax machines, and various UPS and surge protection devices to Ft. Pickett on Thursday. VITA estimates 40 to 90 PC's will be necessary to sustain operations.
 - Establishing Internet connectivity at Ft. Pickett for four administration buildings and the dining hall. The Dining Hall will provide the space for the Internet Café and Phone Bank for evacuees.
 - EMAC Request Summary information is posted on the On-Line EOC. Any On-Line EOC access issues should be directed to VITA Customer Care at 1-866-637-8482.

- **VDSS**
 - 224 State and Local Social Services employees are in the database to serve either one-week in Virginia or two weeks in the impacted region if called upon.
 - 161 faith and community based organizations are in the database that can help with food, shelter and transportation.
 - Developing a staffing pattern for operations at Fort Pickett.
 - Directing local offices to refer evacuees to local chapter of American Red Cross (ARC) and provide FEMA teleregistration number. After screening by ARC, DSS will process evacuees into appropriate program.
 - DSS provided guidelines to localities for providing assistance to evacuees
 - DSS Hotline – 1-800-777-8293 – For Faith Based Groups to offer temporary housing for evacuees – 81 organizations are in the database.

- **VDFFP**
 - Staffing to assist in EMAC and Legislative Affairs in VEOC.

- **VDACS**
 - Continue to track consumer reports of alleged gasoline price gouging and half-pricing through its Hotline number: 1-800-552-9963. Citizens in the Richmond area may contact (804) 786-2042. To date 104 calls have been received relative to alleged price gouging and 20 other calls alleging miscellaneous motor fuels complaints, such as half-pricing discrepancies, failure to deliver correct amount of fuel, and signage issues.

- **VDHCD**
 - Tasked with matching families and available housing in the communities.

- **Red Cross**
 - American Red Cross has **1,552 open cases** and has assisted **3,550 individuals**. The largest concentrations of evacuees are in Hampton Roads, Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Fredericksburg and Richmond. No shelters have been reported open in Virginia at this time.
 - Richmond Chapter reports 110 medical cases, 20-30 that were more serious. The local Health Department will follow up with the serious cases.

LOCAL ACTIONS:

- Identifying resources for possible deployment to impact areas
- Monitoring fuel supply
- Managing arrival of evacuees in the localities
- Six person Incident Management Team from Arlington County deployed and on site working from the New Orleans Police Department Emergency Operation Center (EMAC).
- Virginia Beach Department of Human Services opened an evacuee Assistance Center on September 7.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Medical Reserve Corps from Chesapeake, Loudoun, Rappahannock, Rappahannock-Rapidan and Virginia Beach are deployed to Alabama and Louisiana through Red Cross.
- Ft. Pickett is prepared to receive evacuees sent to Virginia by FEMA. The sheltering facility is not for evacuees currently in Virginia. Disaster assistance services are available to all evacuees. First and foremost, evacuees will be able to register with FEMA if they have not already done so.
- All state agencies with supporting roles have stations at Ft. Pickett. Transportation arrangements for evacuees from Richmond International Airport to Ft. Pickett have not been finalized. Evacuees, upon arriving at Ft. Pickett will be questioned about short term and long term housing needs.
- Greater Richmond Area Red Cross and the Petersburg Chapter are set up to assist processing evacuees arriving at Ft. Pickett.
- Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC) is open to answer questions and field concerns from citizens. The VPIC telephone number is **866-880-4288**, hours of operation this week – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 86 calls reported for September 9. A total of 555 calls reported since VPIC opened on September 2.
- FEMA has set up a Donations Hotline at **800-440-6728**.
- 2,265 evacuees have reportedly registered with a current Virginia address through FEMA Teleregistrations.
- The Department of Health and Human Services has established a website (<https://volunteer.hhs.gov>) and toll-free number (1-866-KAT-MEDI) to help identify private sector health care professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.
- Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) has been tasked by 1st Air Force and FEMA to be activated for operations in the Gulf Coast area.
- Public Affairs handled numerous media inquiries on the Commonwealth's response. A Joint Information Center (JIC) has been established at Fort Pickett. Updated www.vaemergency.com with the latest information.
- State Council of Higher Education Virginia (SCHEV) provided a link for displaced students that offers information on colleges and universities throughout the

Commonwealth accepting enrollment -
<http://www.schev.edu/Students/ResponseToKatrina.asp>.

PROJECTED FUTURE ACTIONS:

- Support establishment and operation of evacuee Reception and Disaster Recovery Center at Fort Pickett.
- Continue to monitor fuel supply. Localities will advise VEOC of difficulties.
- Coordinate state relief efforts.
- Process EMAC requests.
- Continue to monitor evacuee situation with emphasis on Fort Pickett effort.
- Track mission assignments to state agencies for response actions.
- Implement external communications plan.

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